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Agenda item 19 (e)
Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Raymond Landveld (Suriname), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.44

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007, 63/218 of 19 December 2008, 64/202 of 21 December 2009 and 65/160 of 20 December 2010, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Concerned by the negative economic impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought, and in this regard welcoming the organization of the second United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Scientific Conference, on the theme "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas", to be held by March 2013 at the latest,

Concerned also by the increasing frequency and severity of dust storms and sandstorms affecting arid and semi-arid regions and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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Convention on Climate Change[2] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[3] while respecting their individual mandates,

Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Changwon City from 10 to 21 October 2011,

Taking note of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication", which emphasized that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification serves as a tool for achieving, inter alia, food security, poverty eradication and sustainable development, for promoting sustainable land use in drylands, and for enhancing the scientific process so that desertification, land degradation and drought issues are better understood, and acknowledging the comprehensive work carried out by the focal point and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in organizing that high-level meeting,

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[4] on the implementation of resolution 65/160 and on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[1]

2. *Expresses deep concern* about the critical situation in the Horn of Africa region, which is experiencing one of the worst droughts in history and underlines that this situation highlights the need for the effective implementation of the Convention and its ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018), through short-, medium- and long-term measures;

3. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and emphasizes the need to implement the decisions adopted at that session;

4. *Also welcomes* the effort by the Conference of the Parties to find lasting solutions with respect to the governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism, as a follow-up to various external assessments undertaken, including the 2009 report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[5] with a view to better servicing the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Recommends* the strengthening of the advisory role of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science

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[2] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[3] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[4] See A/66/291, sect. II.

[5] See A/64/379.

and Technology, through their recommendations, in order to monitor effectively the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

6. *Notes* the continuing need for strengthening the scientific basis of the Convention and the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth session[6] to establish an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the Convention;

7. *Also notes* the efforts under way for the development and implementation of scientifically based and sound methods for monitoring and assessing desertification;

8. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in further enhancing resource allocation during future replenishments, to consider increasing allocations to the land degradation focal area, depending on the availability of resources;

9. *Notes* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the involvement of these stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

10. *Reaffirms its resolve* to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention, with a view to addressing causes of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building;

11. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

12. *Reaffirms* the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention no later than 31 December 2017, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session;[7]

13. *Decides* to include in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2012-2013 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium and requests the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies when submitting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013;

14. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in

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[6] See ICCD/COP(10)/_/Add.1, decision _/COP.10.

[7] Ibid., decision _/COP.10.

Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.